

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method comprising  
displaying a plan of units located at a place of accommodation,  
receiving from a user an interactive indication of a calendar period of interest,  
receiving continually updated information about the availability for booking,  
during specified calendar periods, of units displayed on the plan, and  
using the updated information to display in the vicinity of units on the plan an  
indicator of the availability state of units during the calendar period of interest.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying one indicator per unit.
3. The method of claim 1 further wherein the display is on a web browser.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the place of accommodation comprises a  
lodging facility.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the place of accommodation comprises a  
cruise ship.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the units comprise cabins on a cruise ship.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the plan comprises an image of a deck of a  
cruise ship.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the place of accommodation comprises a  
hotel.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the units comprise rooms or suites in a hotel.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the plan comprises an image of a floor of a  
hotel.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying a graphic image of the interior of a unit when the user moves a pointer over the unit on the plan.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying textual information relating to features of a unit when the user moves a pointer over the unit on the plan.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the plan comprises a seating arrangement.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the seating arrangement is in a theatre, stadium or restaurant.

15. A method comprising  
obtaining at least one plan of units for each of multiple places of accommodation, the different places of accommodation having different configurations,  
making the plans of units available through a publicly accessible electronic network,  
receiving continually updated information concerning the availability state of each of the units displayed on each plan during specified time periods, and  
making the updated information available through the network so that it can be accessed by a user while viewing any of the plans of units.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the network comprises the Internet.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the places of accommodation comprise lodging facilities.

18. The method of claim 15 further including using the updated information to display an indicator in the vicinity of units on the plan of the availability state of units during a calendar period of interest.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein the plans of units comprise electronic representations of cruise ship decks.
20. A method comprising  
obtaining an electronically represented plan of units for a place of accommodation,  
displaying the plan, and  
enabling a developer to interactively associate coordinates with each unit of the plan,  
to identify hot spots on which a user can position a pointer to obtain information associated  
with each unit.
21. The method of claim 20 wherein the information includes a graphic image of the  
interior of a unit.
22. The method of claim 20 wherein the information includes textual information  
relating to features of a unit.
23. The method of claim 20 wherein the information is provided in a pop-up window.
24. A method comprising  
displaying, on a web browser, a plan of units located at a lodging facility,  
receiving an interactive indication from a user of a calendar period of interest,  
receiving continually updated information about the availability for booking of units  
displayed on the plan during specified calendar periods, and  
using the updated information to display one indicator per unit in the vicinity of units  
on the plan of the availability state of units during the calendar period of interest.
25. The method of claim 24 wherein the lodging facility comprises a cruise ship and  
the units are cabins.
26. A method comprising  
displaying a plan of units located at a place of accommodation,

displaying a graphic image of the interior of a unit when a user moves a pointer over the unit on the plan.

27. A method comprising  
at a server, storing plans of accommodations available at different locations,  
receiving at the server continually updated information about the availability of the accommodations at the different locations during defined time periods, and  
making the plans and the continually updated information available on a publicly accessible communication network to customers for the accommodations.

28. A web page comprising  
a plan of units of accommodation at a location, and  
indicators on the plan in the vicinity of units of the accommodation, the indicators indicating the availability states of the units.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 2010 O-1250-1000